

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

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R 050719Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1360

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 884

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, TC

SUBJECT: U.S. POLICY TOWARD "GULF SECURITY"

REF: ABU DHABI 1581

1. FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT JUST BELOW THE GULF, I SUBSCRIBE
TO MIKE STERNER'S ANALYSIS THAT USG HAS LITTLE TO GAIN BY
RESISTING TERMINATION OF COMIDEASTFOR ARRANGEMENTS.

2. SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT OMANI GOVT PERHAPS MORE THAN
ITS GULF NEIGHBORS STILL SEES US NAVAL PRESENCE IN AREA AS
COMFORTING. THIS CERTAINLY IS NATURAL SINCE OMAN UNLIKE THE
OTHERS HAS FOR A DECADE BEEN CONFRONTED BY A BLOODY REVOLU-
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TIONARY EFFORT SUPPORTED BY SOVIETS AND RADICAL ARAB STATES.

PERHAPS IF WE DO ACCEDE TO BAHRAIN REQUEST TO HAVE COMIDEASTFOR
LEAVE BY 1977 WE SHOULD TRY TO USE THIS CARD IN SOME SPECIFIC
WAY TO BRING ABOUT REDUCTION OR DEPARTURE OF PERMANENT
SOVIET NAVAL PRESENCE IN IRAQ. FOR US SIMPLY TO REMOVE U.S.
NAVY FROM BAHRAIN AND HOPE THAT OUR EXAMPLE ALONE WILL INDUCE
SIMILAR SOVIET ACTION IN IRAQ MAY BE RATHER NAIVE, BECAUSE
WHILE WE AGREE THAT TO GULF ARABS A PLACE LIKE DIEGO GARCIA
SEEMS FAR AWAY AND FOREIGN FACILITIES THERE WOULD NOT SEEM
TO IMPINGE ON ARAB SOIL AND SENSITIVITIES, THE SOVIETS PROBABLY
SEE A MORE DIRECT RELATIONSHIP AND WILL DO THEIR BEST TO RETAIN
WHAT FACILITIES THEY HAVE IN AND AROUND THE ARABIAN PENINSULA.
WOLLE

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